REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I.

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is presently active in the application. No claim has been canceled.

Applicants note with appreciation the examiner's acknowledgement of their claim for priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f) and receipt of all of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Applicants also note with appreciation the examiner's acknowledgement and consideration of the information disclosure statement submitted by applicants.

II.

Applicants have noted the examiner's objections to the abstract. The abstract has been amended to overcome the objections noted by the examiner.

III.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Duret et al. (U.S. patent No. 4,742,464). Claim 1 further stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsson et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,851,115). Claim 1 still further stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Franetzki (WO 96/37163). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the step of storing at a measuring center three-dimensional coordinate information of an intra-oral shape measured on a basis of a plaster model prepared by impression taking within an oral cavity of a patient as set forth in claim 1. Moreover, the process disclosed by Duret et al. takes place at a single location--namely the dental practitioner's office (column 2 line 65-column 3 line 5). Therefore, the process disclosed by Duret et al. does not involve the use of communication apparatus as set

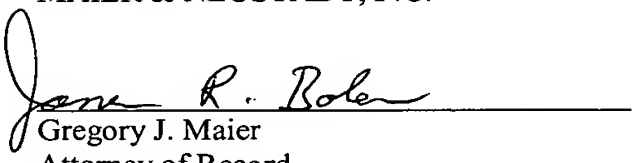
forth in claim 1. As pointed out on pages 6 and 7 of the present application, by the use of communication apparatus, the measured data can be sent to a design center off site where an expert having skilled knowledge in dental techniques as well as sufficient knowledge in techniques for a CAD design is employed. Therefore, with the present invention, the design stage of a dental prosthesis, which is the most difficult stage in the CAD/CAM system design prcess, is carried out by an expert in CAD design. Therefore, the present invention improves the chances of obtaining an ideal dental prosthesis that will provide a much better fit in the oral cavity of the patient than a dental prosthesis prepared by the ordinary dental practitioner in his office.

IV.

In view of the above remarks, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

James R. Boler
Registration No. 37,058

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

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